

What is Claimed is:

1. A handle assembly for use with a cleaning pad having a slit opening through a side surface of the cleaning pad, said handle assembly comprising:
 - 5 a first member including a first insertable portion having opposite first and second ends and opposite inner and outer surfaces extending between said first and second ends, and a handle portion having opposite first and second ends, the first end of said handle portion being fixed to the second end of said first insertable portion and said handle portion having a manually engageable part adjacent the
10 second end of said handle portion;
 - a second member including a second insertable portion having opposite first and second ends and opposite inner and outer surfaces extending between said first and second ends, and an actuation portion having opposite first and second ends, the first end of said actuation portion being fixed to the second end of said
15 second insertable portion;
 - the first end of said second insertable portion being pivotally mounted on the first end of said first insertable portion with the inner surfaces of said insertable portions adjacent for relative movement of said insertable portions by manipulation of said actuation portion between a diverging position with said outer surfaces of
20 said insertable portions diverging from said first ends of said insertable portions, and an adjacent position with said outer surfaces of said insertable portions generally parallel or closer to parallel than in said diverging position;
 - at least one of said insertable portions having at least one barb projecting from the inner surface of said one insertable portion, and the other of said
25 insertable portions having an opening aligned with said barb, said barb projecting above the outer surface of said other of said insertable portions in said adjacent position so that with the insertable portions in the slit in the cleaning pad the barb will engage the cleaning pad, and said barb being essentially positioned between the outer surfaces of said insertable portions in said diverging position so that the
30 insertable portions can move in the slit relative to the cleaning pad.

2. A handle assembly according to claim 1 wherein each of said insertable portions has at least one barb projecting from the inner surface of said insertable portion, and the other of said insertable portions has an opening aligned with said barb, said barbs projecting above the outer surfaces of said insertable portions in said adjacent position so that with the insertable portions in the slit in the cleaning pad the barbs will engage the cleaning pad, and said barbs being essentially positioned between the outer surfaces of said insertable portions in said diverging position so that the insertable portions can move in the slit relative to the cleaning pad.

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3. A handle assembly according to claim 1 wherein one of said insertable portions has two barbs projecting from the inner surface of said one insertable portion, the other of said insertable portions has one barb projecting from the inner surface of said other of said insertable portions, and each of the insertable portions has one or more openings aligned with the barb or barbs on the other of the insertable portions, said barbs projecting above the outer surfaces of said insertable portions in said adjacent position so that with the insertable portions in the slit in the cleaning pad the barbs will engage the cleaning pad, and said barbs are essentially positioned between the outer surfaces of said insertable portions in said diverging position so that the insertable portions can move in the slit relative to the cleaning pad.

4. A handle assembly according to claim 3 wherein said barbs project toward the second end of said insertable portions so that said insertable portions can be moved into the slit in the cleaning pad with said insertable portions in said adjacent position.

5. A handle assembly according to claim 1 wherein in said diverging position the outer surfaces of said insertable portions are disposed at an angle in the range of about 15 to 30 degrees.

6. A handle assembly according to claim 1 wherein said actuation portion is a generally rigid member manually moveable between a closed position laying along said handle portion to position said insertable portions in said adjacent position, and an open position spaced from said handle portion to position said insertable portions in said diverging position, and said handle assembly includes means for releasably latching said handle and actuation portions in said closed position.

7. A handle assembly according to claim 1 wherein said actuation portion is mounted for sliding movement along said handle portion between a closed position to position said insertable portions in said adjacent position, and an open position with the first end of said actuation portion closer to said insertable portions than in said closed position to position said insertable portions in said diverging position, said actuation portion including a manually engageable button moveable along said handle member to afford manual movement of said insertable portions between said adjacent and open positions.

8. A handle assembly for use with a cleaning pad having a slit opening through a side surface of the cleaning pad, said handle assembly comprising:
a first member including a first insertable portion having opposite first and second ends and opposite inner and outer surfaces extending between said first and second ends, and a handle portion having opposite first and second ends, the first end of said handle portion being fixed to the second end of said first insertable portion and said handle portion having a manually engageable part adjacent the second end of said handle portion;

a second member including a second insertable portion having opposite first and second ends and opposite inner and outer surfaces extending between said first and second ends, and an actuation portion having opposite first and second ends, the first end of said actuation portion being fixed to the second end of said second insertable portion;

the first end of said second insertable portion being pivotally mounted on the first end of said first insertable portion with the inner surfaces of said insertable

portions adjacent for relative movement of said insertable portions by manipulation of said actuation portion between a diverging position with said outer surfaces of said insertable portions diverging from said first ends of said insertable portions, and an adjacent position with said outer surfaces of said insertable portions
5 generally parallel or closer to parallel than in said diverging position;

each of said insertable portions having at least one barb projecting from the inner surface of said insertable portion, and the other of said insertable portions having an opening aligned with said barb, said barbs projecting above the outer surfaces of said insertable portions in said adjacent position so that with the
10 insertable portions in the slit in the cleaning pad the barbs will engage the cleaning pad, and said barbs being essentially positioned between the outer surfaces of said insertable portions in said diverging position so that the insertable portions can move in the slit relative to the cleaning pad, said barbs projecting toward the second end of said insertable portions so that said insertable portions can be moved
15 into the slit in the cleaning pad with said insertable portions in said adjacent position.

9. A handle assembly according to claim 8 wherein in said diverging position the outer surfaces of said insertable portions are disposed at an angle of at
20 least about 15 degrees.

10. A handle assembly according to claim 8 wherein in said diverging position the outer surfaces of said insertable portions are disposed at an angle in the range of about 15 to 30 degrees.
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11. A handle assembly according to claim 8 wherein in said diverging position the outer surfaces are closer to parallel than in the diverging position by at least 10 degrees.

12. A handle assembly according to claim 8 wherein in said diverging position the outer surfaces are closer to parallel than in the diverging position by at least 15 degrees.
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13. A handle assembly according to claim 8 wherein said actuation portion is a generally rigid member manually moveable between a closed position laying along said handle portion to position said insertable portions in said adjacent position, and an open position spaced from said handle portion to position said insertable portions in said diverging position, and said handle assembly includes means for releasably latching said handle and actuation portions in said closed position.

14. A handle assembly according to claim 8 wherein said actuation portion is mounted for sliding movement along said handle portion between a closed position to position said insertable portions in said adjacent position, and an open position with the first end of said actuation portion closer to said insertable portions than in said closed position to position said insertable portions in said diverging position, said actuation portion having a manually engageable button moveable along said handle member to afford manual movement of said insertable portions between said adjacent and open positions.

15. A handle assembly according to claim 8 wherein in said first and second members are a unitary molding.

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